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# U.S. Espionage Ring Smashed, Saigon Says

SAIGON, July 17 (UPI) — Authorities have cracked an intelligence ring allegedly set up by departing U.S. officials to combat the new Provisional Revolutionary Government, official spokesmen said yesterday.

Liberation Daily, the official government newspaper, said authorities arrested all members of the group last month "along with their weapons and important files of American intelligence."

An official spokesman said the ring had its headquarters in the capital of Soctrang Province, 95 miles south of Saigon.

Officials did not give the number of persons in the allegedly American-run intelligence network. They said authorities picked them up in a security sweep in Soctrang that netted 100 prisoners.

The arrests were part of a continuing crackdown on persons opposing the new South Vietnamese government. Saigon newspapers have run daily stories to enlist popular support for the program.

The Military Management Committee currently governing the Saigon area yesterday warned of tough punishment for PRG opponents.

The purported Soctrang intelligence ring was the first of its kind reported by authorities since the April 30 take over of Saigon by the PRG.

Officials said U.S. intelligence officials planted the intelligence personnel in South Vietnam to work against the new government.

The government has already charged several Vietnamese arrested in Saigon with being members of the Central Intelligence Agency, but apparently in most cases they referred to the agency of the former Saigon government, not the U.S. CIA.

[North Vietnam applied for full membership in the United Nations Thursday, as the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam did Monday.

(After consultations among the members, the security council is expected to be called into session to consider both Vietnamese applications.]